

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08  
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 CU-02 /076 W  
-----072018Z 057234 /45

R 071206Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9234  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1703

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PFOR, SP, MT  
SUBJECT: GOS PLANS MISSION TO MALTA

REF: MADRID 769

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 4, THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR WESTERN EUROPE (DEL PINO) SAID THE  
GOS WOULD BE SENDING A MISSION TO MALTA, PRINCIPALLY TO  
TRY TO GET A SYSTEMATIC HOLD ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF  
EXPANDING SPANISH-MALTESE COOPERATION. (MINOFF'S  
SCATTERSHOT APPROACH, HE SAID, NEEDED SOME GRAPPLING WITH.)  
AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE GOS WANTED TO HELP, HE EXPLAINED,  
BUT FOUND SOME DIFFICULTY IN GENERATING THE NECESSARY  
ENTHUSIASM WITHIN SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WHILE  
GETTING THE SPANISH PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONFRONT MALTA'S  
SCANT RESOURCES AND UNAPPEALING INVESTMENT CLIMATE  
REQUIRED CONSTANT EFFORT.

2. INCLUDED IN THE MISSION WOULD BE A "HIGH NAVY  
OFFICIAL", DEL PINO VOLUNTEERED. ASKED WHY, HE REFERRED  
VAGUELY TO MINTOFF'S INTEREST IN NAVAL ENGINEERING AND  
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ANDDED THAT IF THE NAVY OFFICIAL "HAPPENED TO OBSERVE  
SOMETHING, THAT WAS ANOTHER MATTER".

3. DEL PINO EXPRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF CONSULTING  
AMONG INTERESTED NATIONS REGARDING MALTA, NOTING THAT THE  
SPANISH AND THE FRENCH HAD RECENTLY HAD A VERY USEFUL  
EXCHANGE AND POINTING OUT THAT ITALY WAS BOTH VERY INTERESTED

AND IN A GOOD POSITION. HE ADDED THAT ONE TOPIC EVERYONE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT WAS HOW A NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE COULD BEST BE FORMULATED. (REFTEL REPORTED HIS EARLIER MENTION OF THIS PROBLEM.) VARIOUS MODALITIES

EXISTED FOR DECLARING THE GUARANTEE, HE NOTED, INCLUDING A UNILATERAL MALTESE DECLARATION FOLLOWED BY A GROUP DECLARATION, OR A SERIES OF PRE-AGREED UNILATERAL DECLARATION, BUT INNOVATIVE THOUGHT WOULD BE NEEDED TO COME UP WITH A POLITICALLY REALISTIC AND JURIDICALLY ACCEPTABLE GUARANTEE FORMULA.

4. HE ALSO THOUGHT, WHILE POINTING OUT HE HAD NO CSCE RESPONSIBILITIES, THAT INTERESTED COUNTRIES MIGHT CONSULT ABOUT COORDINATED WARNINGS TO MINTOFF REGARDING A REPEAT IN BELGRADE OF HIS PERFORMANCE IN HELSINKI. EVEN IF MINTOFF AGREED BEFOREHAND, HOWEVER, DEL PINO WENT ON, HE WOULD PROBABLY PUT ON ANOTHER SHOW, TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIMSELF AND HIS ISLAND.EATON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, MT  
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**Review Markings:**  
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